

From: lbuchana@csc.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 11:27am
Subject: Anti-trust damages

Hi,

The following opinions are mine and do not reflect the opinions of Computer Sciences Corporation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or any of the computer forensics groups I am a member of. To let you know what biases I might have, I have a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Applied Computer Science and have 18 years of professional experience in programming mostly on UNIX systems. I do not own any Microsoft stock directly, but many of the mutual funds I have invested in hold Microsoft stock. I do own stock in Hewlett Packard (100 shares) and SGI (300 shares). Both companies have operating systems that in some markets competes with Microsoft, but both companies also sell systems with Microsoft Windows.

One of the major problems I have in trying to develop computer forensic analysis software for Microsoft products is the lack of documentation. Microsoft does not document file formats or low level system function calls. Reverse engineering can solve these problems, but that is time consuming and is nonproductive. Reverse engineering may also violate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

As part of the damages I would like to see that Microsoft be ordered to publish six months prior to release of any product the complete and accurate documentation of all function calls and file formats. For existing products and products about to be released the same documentation be published within six months of the order. If Microsoft is unable to comply, then it will be ordered to electronically publish all of its source code and documentation to released products at a price equal to or less than the price of the product. Microsoft will of course retain copyright to the source code and should be remunerated for any commercial use of their source code.

My goal is to reduce the time it takes to develop computer forensic tools and to eliminate the need to reverse engineer undocumented file formats or function calls.

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